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Provisional

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Thursday, 22 August 2024, 3 p.m.

New York

President: Ms. Karim (Sierra Leone)

Members:

Algeria	Mr. Alem
China	Mr. Lei Zhao
Ecuador	Mr. Rojas Jacome
France	Mr. Vandriessche
Guyana	Mr. Douglas
Japan	Mr. Shoji
Malta	Mr. Azzopardi
Mozambique	Mr. Buanahagi
Republic of Korea	Mr. Sun-Min Lee
Russian Federation	Ms. Agaronova
Slovenia	Ms. Langerholc
Switzerland	Mr. Carpenter
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland . .	Ms. Byangoy
United States of America	Mr. Mendoza

Agenda

Peacebuilding and sustaining peace

The new agenda for peace — addressing global, regional and national aspects of conflict prevention

Identical letters dated 30 July 2024 from the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council (S/2024/581)

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The meeting was suspended at 6.05 p.m. on Wednesday, 21 August, and resumed at 3 p.m. on Thursday, 22 August.

The President: I wish to remind all speakers to limit their statements to no longer than three minutes to enable the Council to carry out its work expeditiously. Flashing lights on the collars of the microphones will prompt speakers to bring their remarks to a close after two and a half minutes.

I now give the floor to the representative of Israel.

Mrs. Shapir Ben Naftaly (Israel): Today, as we deliberate on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, we draw upon the Secretary-General's policy brief A New Agenda for Peace, which stresses that terrorism remains a global threat and calls for a comprehensive approach to counter-terrorism. For Israel, a nation that has faced persistent threats and challenges, the principles of peace and security are crucial. Terrorism remains one of the most significant obstacles to peace. It undermines the very fabric of society, spreads fear and perpetuates violence.

Yesterday marked the seventh commemoration of the International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism. The United Nations held a commemoration ceremony to honour the memories of the victims of terrorism. However, unfortunately, Israeli victims were not included in that remembrance, and the terror organizations responsible for their murder — Hamas, Hizbullah and the Houthis — were not condemned.

The 7 October 2023 massacre, the largest mass murder of Jews in a single day since the Holocaust, has seemingly been erased from the pages of history in the United Nations. Its memory has been wiped out, along with the memory of 1,200 Israelis and other nationals who were slaughtered by Hamas terrorists on that day. Those exclusions are not mere oversights; they reflect a broader, deeply entrenched trend of imbalance in the United Nations approach against Israel. That systematic bias clarifies several troubling patterns. It is why Hamas, despite its most brutal atrocities, including the holding of 109 women, children and men for more than 320 days, is not designated as a terrorist organization by the United Nations, and why Israel's counter-terrorism actions are often falsely criticized in these halls.

For the past ten months, Israel has faced daily attacks from Hizbullah in the north, Hamas and

Palestinian Islamic Jihad in Gaza and in Judea and Samaria. The Houthis in Yemen and the militias in Iraq and Syria are all directed, funded, trained and backed by the Iranian regime, in clear violation of numerous Security Council resolutions.

Israel advocates a multifaceted approach to counter-terrorism. In addition to security measures, efforts to disrupt the financial networks that fund terrorist organizations and their activities are vital. It is also important to curb any financial inducements given to affiliates or individuals that circumvent Security Council arms embargoes or sanctions regimes. In order to achieve that, we must enhance international cooperation and information-sharing and collaborate on building the capacities of States to prevent and adequately respond to terrorist threats. The international community should work together to dismantle the infrastructure of terror, whether that infrastructure is operating out in the open or hiding in the shadows.

Conflict prevention is the cornerstone of any sustainable peace effort. In Israel, we recognize that inclusive dialogue is central to conflict prevention. That requires engaging all stakeholders, including women and youth. We support and advocate the full, meaningful and equal participation of women at all levels of decision-making on peace and security.

In conclusion, the pursuit of peace and international stability is a fundamental necessity for our collective future. Israel remains resolute in its commitment to counterterrorism and conflict prevention, recognizing that those efforts are integral to any comprehensive peacebuilding strategy. It is time for the Security Council to act in accordance with its obligations and promote decisive actions against terrorism and its perpetrators.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Ukraine.

Mr. Dvornyk (Ukraine): Ukraine highly appreciates the initiative of the Sierra Leonean presidency to hold this important debate and expresses its gratitude to the briefers for their presentations.

The New Agenda for Peace has emerged at a time when the global security architecture is under serious threat. In our region, those threats have reached a level comparable to that of the Second World War, calling into question the reliability of the prevention

instruments that we have depended on for decades. We fully agree with the position of the Secretary-General mentioned in the concept note (see S/2024/581), namely, that countries must move beyond words and invest in prevention.

We also believe that nationally led prevention strategies would benefit if complemented by viable instruments at the multilateral level — first and foremost, those at the disposal of the Security Council. Unfortunately, the latter is not yet the case, and insufficient preventive measures in the early stages may only encourage aggressors to expand violence in terms of both intensity and geographical scope.

The full-scale invasion of Ukraine serves as a powerful example. There, the Security Council has been immobilized, primarily because the aggressor occupies a permanent seat here. We remain convinced that a country in a permanent seat should not exercise the veto power during the consideration of situations in which that country is directly involved as a party to conflict — and, what is more, as an instigator of conflict. At the prevention stage, that does not even require amendments to the Charter of the United Nations. What is needed is a return to the implementation of Article 27, paragraph 3, of the Charter. As demonstrated by this year's intergovernmental negotiations, that issue is important to the majority of States Members of the United Nations.

The case of Russia proves quite clearly that a lack of democracy, accountability and the rule of law makes the regime prone to aggression. Therefore, restoring respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms is a crucial element of our efforts to prevent conflicts and sustain peace. It is equally important to explore the prevention toolbox in order to discourage an instigator from stoking new flare-ups of violence. Imposing sanctions against an aggressor at the international level has been a legitimate and adequate response aimed at restoring respect for the norms and principles of international law. That is especially relevant when an aggressor could, from its permanent seat, block any preventive actions by the Council. Prevention should also include ensuring accountability as an important part of peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

All of those are among the elements of the Ukrainian peace formula, which serves as a road map not only for ending the war of aggression against my country but also as a role model applicable to other

conflict situations, as it is based on the Charter of the United Nations and international law. Strong preventive diplomacy is not merely an option, it is essential for achieving practical results. Our discussions must be followed by concrete actions to break the vicious cycle of conflicts and hold their instigators accountable.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Nigeria.

Mr. Endoni (Nigeria): At the outset, let me also add our voice of appreciation to Sierra Leone for convening this very important meeting on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, and I further commend Sierra Leone's presidency and stewardship for opening such crucial discussions to the wider United Nations membership. Let me also thank yesterday's briefers for their insightful briefings.

One year since the release of the Secretary-General's New Agenda for Peace, instability seems to have spread even further across the world, underscoring not only the urgency of this meeting but also the importance of investing in conflict prevention. As outlined in the concept note (see S/2024/581), the endeavour should be anchored in national ownership, requiring comprehensive approaches, political will, effective partnerships and sustainable resources, without which there can be no lasting peace and development.

Nigeria is committed to strengthening regional and international cooperation and developing effective measures for global peace. Those efforts are in recognition of the fact that addressing the root causes of conflict and building community resilience saves lives and livelihoods and is more cost-effective than responding to an outbreak of conflict and its consequences. Nigeria's constructive collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme has resulted in the upscaling of early-warning and early-response systems at the federal and state levels to identify and prevent the escalation of threats in the early stages. Similarly, we have emphasized community mediation mechanisms involving the full, equal and meaningful participation of women, youths and community leaders. Those are approaches that have proven effective in fostering social cohesion, mitigating conflict and reducing violence.

A crucial aspect of our successful Multinational Joint Task Force operations is the Regional Strategy for Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience, which focuses on socioeconomic programmes including education,

empowerment and the inclusion of women and youths. That comprehensive strategy, in addition to renewed disarmament, demobilization and reintegration efforts, addresses marginalization and grievances that create the environment for recruitment by violent extremist groups and perpetuate conflict.

On development-focused conflict prevention, Nigeria has long advocated the importance of development investment as a key conflict prevention strategy, particularly in addressing socioeconomic vulnerabilities. In that regard, we reiterate the need for more creative financing models, including from the private sector, and for international financial institutions to be more flexible in supporting the peace and development agenda of countries in conflict, which are expending limited resources on security.

We further welcome the provisions in the Pact for the Future that emphasize, *inter alia*, strengthening the Peacebuilding Commission, including its advisory, bridging and convening roles. It is also critical to conflict prevention to build national capacities, enhance the role of international financial institutions in peacebuilding efforts and leverage the contextual expertise and resources of regional organizations. In addition, with the 2025 peacebuilding architecture review under way, we call for the best practices highlighted in this meeting be reflected in the outcome.

We must acknowledge that foreign interference and geopolitical rivalry continue to undermine efforts aimed at mitigating conflict, thereby reinforcing the broader need for reforms that promote the effectiveness of the Security Council in maintaining international peace and security.

In conclusion, let me reiterate Nigeria's commitment to multilateral peace efforts, since there is no development without peace and no peace without development.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Bahrain.

Mr. Alrowaiei (Bahrain) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to thank the delegation of Sierra Leone for its commendable efforts during its presidency of the Security Council this month.

I also welcome Mr. Timothy Kabba, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Sierra Leone, to preside over this important

meeting. And I would also like to thank the briefers for their valuable briefings.

We live in an increasingly interconnected and changing world marked by crises and conflicts that pose grave risks to international peace and security and require a focus on conflict prevention and the maintenance of peace at the national, regional and international levels, including — as proposed by the Secretary-General in the New Agenda for Peace — the development of national strategies to prevent and address the various drivers of violence and conflict in societies so as to promote the values of tolerance and solidarity.

The Kingdom of Bahrain further acknowledges the importance of regional and international diplomatic efforts towards achieving comprehensive and sustainable peaceful solutions to wars and all conflicts, especially an end to the suffering of the brotherly Palestinian people through a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip and meeting their humanitarian needs.

In that connection, the thirty-third session of the Arab Summit, hosted by the Kingdom of Bahrain last May, reflected the Kingdom's commitment to joint Arab efforts towards achieving sustainable development for peoples and future generations, while meeting their aspirations and allowing them to live in freedom, safety and dignity. The summit in Bahrain adopted a number of important initiatives, foremost among which was the call for an international conference for peace in the Middle East aimed at resolving the Palestinian question on the basis of the two-State solution. The Kingdom of Bahrain expressed its readiness to host the conference and its support for full recognition of the State of Palestine and its admission as a State Member of the United Nations, for the provision of educational and health services to those affected by conflicts and disputes in the region, in cooperation and coordination with international and regional organizations, and for the enhancement of cooperation among Arab countries in the fields of financing, technology, innovation and digital transformation.

The Kingdom of Bahrain continues to pursue humanitarian initiatives under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain, and his Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain. A royal decree has established the King Hamad Award for Peaceful Coexistence, which aims to encourage individuals

and organizations in their pioneering efforts in the field of dialogue among civilizations and coexistence; to support and pay tribute to laudable efforts aimed at promoting the values of peaceful coexistence and global solidarity in order to achieve coexistence and human diversity, reject violence, extremism and hatred and preserve humankind's gains by positively influencing the societies in which they work; and to raise awareness of the importance of civilizations and cultures converging and meeting in order to achieve world peace. That international award comes in the context of His Majesty the King's pioneering initiatives at the regional and international levels, which promote world peace and coexistence and include a call for the adoption of an international convention to criminalize hate speech that is based on religious discrimination, sectarianism and racism.

In conclusion, the Kingdom of Bahrain reaffirms its commitment to human solidarity and international partnership in order to prioritize wisdom and dialogue in stopping wars, resolving conflicts and preventing their outbreak or expansion, combating extremism and terrorism and promoting tolerance and understanding among peoples and cultures as basic guarantees of respect for human rights and freedoms and the maintenance of international peace and security.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Angola.

Mr. Da Cruz (Angola): I would like to express my country's appreciation to the Republic of Sierra Leone for convening this timely meeting and for its leadership in the Security Council during the month of August. Let me also thank all the speakers for their insightful briefings, which shed light on and brought a comprehensive perspective and a holistic approach to this debate.

The United Nations was created with the main purpose of saving future generations from the scourge of war. Therefore, we must strive to remain truthful and faithful to that noble goal and to the Charter of the United Nations itself. In that vein, the New Agenda for Peace, presented by the Secretary-General, Mr. António Guterres, represents a very strategic policy document, since it addresses the challenges that the international community faces today and defines multilateral efforts for peace and security based on international law and giving an enhanced role to the Peacebuilding Commission.

In Africa, we continue to witness political, religious, ethnic and cultural intolerance, unconstitutional changes of Government, terrorism and violent extremism, despite the efforts undertaken by Member States and the African Union to find African solutions to African problems and the Silencing the Guns by 2030 initiative. That worrisome situation justifies the urgent need to address the root causes of conflict, starting by recognizing that development, peace and security and human rights are interconnected and mutually reinforcing, to ensure the rule of law and the fair sharing of economic and social opportunities, as well as an environment of justice for all.

Angola's foreign policy on peace and security is based on its own experience of, and commitment to, the permanent promotion of national reconciliation, social cohesion and the strengthening of democracy and the rule of law. In that context, His Excellency Mr. João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola, as African Union Champion for Peace and Reconciliation in Africa and Chair of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, has been engaged in several diplomatic initiatives in favour of peace and stability in the Great Lakes region. As part of the African Union mandate, he has been mediating the political tension between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda, resulting in the signing of a ceasefire agreement that began on 4 August in the framework of the Luanda process.

The third ministerial meeting between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda took place in Luanda on 20 and 21 August with the aim of analysing a proposal for a lasting peace agreement submitted by His Excellency Mr. João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola, to His Excellency Mr. Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, President of the Republic of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and His Excellency Mr. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda. The Ministers decided to hold a meeting of experts on 29 and 30 August to address specific aspects of the agreement and to meet again on 9 and 10 September in Luanda to finalize those discussions and create the diplomatic conditions for a summit between the Presidents of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda in the near future.

In conclusion, as a country that endured decades of internal conflict, Angola values the strategic importance of the culture of peace. For that reason, in collaboration

with the African Union and UNESCO, the country has been hosting the Pan-African Forum for a Culture of Peace in Africa — the Biennale of Luanda — every two years to strengthen the pan-African movement for a culture of peace and non-violence in order to contribute to the realization of an integrated, peaceful and prosperous Africa. The next iteration is scheduled for November 2025. As we approach the Summit of the Future, it is critical that we renew our collective commitment and actions to place conflict prevention, mediation and the peaceful settlement of disputes at the very centre of our global agenda.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Saint Kitts and Nevis.

Ms. Williams (Saint Kitts and Nevis): I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

We congratulate Sierra Leone on its assumption to the presidency of the Security Council for August and thank you, Madam President, for convening and presiding over today's high-level open debate on peacebuilding and sustaining peace. We also thank the briefers for their insights on the global, regional and national aspects of conflict prevention.

CARICOM recognizes that there has been a global uptick in violent crimes, with many being committed between non-State actors, such as political militias and international terrorist and organized crime groups. Unresolved regional tensions, absent or co-opted State institutions, a breakdown in the rule of law, illicit economic gain and the scarcity of resources exacerbated by climate change have all become dominant drivers of conflict. It is estimated that the world is currently facing the highest number of violent conflicts since the Second World War. At the same time, however, there has been a regression in efforts to frontally address the underlying drivers of conflict and fragility, with conflict prevention being severely limited. We have therefore been spending and exhausting our limited resources, time and effort on conflict resolution, rather than turning our lens towards conflict prevention.

That is why today's debate is so timely. It gives us the opportunity to share best practices and concrete successful examples of conflict prevention in the global, regional and national contexts. As nations committed to the principles of peace and justice, CARICOM firmly believes that the only pathway to durable peace is through sustainable development.

CARICOM also uses mediation to resolve domestic and regional disputes among its members and to ensure that the region remains a zone of peace. We view conflict prevention as critical to safeguarding our common developmental goals and also acknowledge that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are relevant to advancing conflict prevention and building peace. As we pursue accelerated efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 SDGs, CARICOM recognizes the critical importance of the Summit of the Future in providing an opportunity for us to promote partnerships, collectively address the economic, environmental and social inequities that are often at the root of conflicts, particularly in the context of sustainable development, and recommit to the multilateral system.

We support the assessment, as outlined in the concept note (see S/2024/581), that the proximate cause of conflict often lies in the lack of inclusive and sustainable development, and we subscribe to the view that investments in development, people and human security are investments in sustainable peace. In that vein, CARICOM underscores the importance of addressing not only the symptoms but also the root causes and drivers of conflicts and seeks to apply that principle in its response to conflict situations or disputes within our region. In our view, regional and international collaboration are critical to addressing the multifaceted challenges driving crime and violence in the world today.

On that particular point, it would be remiss of me not to highlight the current situation in Haiti, where CARICOM, in collaboration with other partners, is assiduously engaged in efforts to quell the violence and provide much-needed support to assist Haiti on the path to stability, security and long-term sustainable development. I am pleased that Mr. Descardes has been able to share an overview of Haiti's experience. With the Council's permission, I would just like to add a point in response to the question on enhancing regional cooperation through regional integration and mediation efforts.

Many Council members may already be aware that CARICOM is extending the Community's good offices to the Government of Haiti and Haitian stakeholders through its Eminent Persons Group. That support is provided in designated priority areas, including security, governance, the electoral process and long-term development planning and advocacy.

In fact, under the revised Treaty of Chaguaramas, CARICOM member States have recourse to several modes of dispute settlement, namely, good offices, mediation, consultations, conciliations, arbitration and adjudication. Over the years, CARICOM has played a role in mediation at the request of several of its member States to facilitate mutually acceptable agreements, including with respect to political transitions and electoral challenges.

CARICOM aligns itself with Secretary-General António Guterres' New Agenda for Peace, which seeks to give new momentum to prevention strategies and strengthen multilateral action for peace. We affirm the region's commitment to continue investing in conflict prevention and to advocate for peacebuilding.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Haiti.

Mr. Gaspard (Haiti) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I would like to congratulate you, Madam President, on your delegation's assumption of the presidency for the month of August and wish you, Madam, every success in your work. I would also like to take this opportunity to commend the convening of this high-level debate on a topic that concerns us all, namely, peacebuilding and sustaining peace and conflict prevention in the New Agenda for Peace.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the representative of Saint Kitts and Nevis on behalf of the Caribbean Community and is speaking in its national capacity.

My delegation thanks the Sierra Leonean presidency for the quality of the concept note (see S/2024/581), based on the Secretary-General's policy brief, entitled "A New Agenda for Peace", which constitutes a genuine plea for the strengthening of multilateralism for peace in a changing world and should serve as a contribution to the work for the Summit of the Future.

On the eve of the important deadline of 2030, we must state the world is not well. The persistence of numerous conflicts; the outbreak of new deadly confrontations; and the proliferation of security, food and health crises, to name but a few, remind us that the various strategies put in place to achieve the much hoped for objectives of peace and sustainable development have not produced the expected results. We must therefore use our imagination to find appropriate solutions that are better adapted to the various problems of our time.

With that in mind, the New Agenda for Peace is an apt opportunity to evaluate the conflict prevention strategies that have been implemented at national level.

This debate is timely and of vital importance for my country, the Republic of Haiti, which for some time has been facing a serious security crisis with multiple consequences, caused by the indiscriminate violence instigated by armed gangs, which threatens to undermine the foundations of Haitian society. The multidimensional crisis demonstrates once again the links between extreme poverty and the outbreak of conflict. The implementation of a holistic development strategy is the right long-term solution.

In the short term, resolving the security crisis remains the top priority for Haiti's most senior authorities. To that end, my delegation welcomes the deployment in June, under the leadership of Kenya, of the first contingents of the Multinational Security Support Mission, within the framework of resolution 2699 (2023), adopted on 2 October 2023 by the Security Council. My delegation once again thanks Kenya for having assumed command of the Mission and the other Member States that have worked to make the Mission a reality. In that respect, the Haitian authorities await the continued deployment of the new contingents. We therefore invite the other Member States and regional organizations to urgently provide personnel, equipment and the necessary financial and logistical resources.

The implementation of a comprehensive development strategy remains an indispensable element of peacebuilding, in the same way that there can be no sustainable development without sustaining peace.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Burundi.

Mr. Maniratanga (Burundi) (*spoke in French*): I would like to congratulate Sierra Leone on its assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of August. And I am delighted to participate in this meeting on the New Agenda for Peace.

Burundi believes that the New Agenda for Peace, proposed by the Secretary-General, offers a unique opportunity to strengthen our collective efforts to prevent conflicts at all levels — global, regional and national.

At national level, Burundi, a post-conflict country, is a success story in peacebuilding, in particular through the programme for peace capitalization. The

programme has significantly empowered young people and women by facilitating the creation of investment banks for those groups, thereby strengthening their economic and social inclusion. In parallel, sport has played a crucial role in promoting peace and solidarity through the annual Torch of Peace events, which bring communities together around common values.

In the same vein, cooperative labour initiatives within agricultural production associations and other efforts have helped to strengthen cooperation between communities. Moreover, women leaders and women mediators, present in all the country's communes, have been essential figures in the process of dialogue and reconciliation, underscoring the importance of their contribution to conflict prevention.

In view of the worrisome rise in violent conflicts and the regression in the response to threats to international peace, Burundi, in the context of this meeting, would like to stress the crucial importance of conflict prevention as a political priority and the pressing need to invest meaningfully in that approach.

First, it is imperative to move from words to concrete actions. As the Secretary-General points out, conflict prevention requires comprehensive approaches, strong political commitment, effective partnerships, sustainable resources and national support. In particular, nationally led prevention strategies are essential. They must enjoy strong support among Member States and enable constructive discussions on conflict prevention, while taking account of local specificities.

Secondly, we must consider development-centred prevention strategies. In Africa, frameworks such as Silencing the Guns by 2030 focus on conflict prevention, but a development-centred approach is crucial. The absence of inclusive and sustainable development is an important driver of conflict, as evidenced by cases of violent extremism in which such groups recruit in areas of extreme poverty and high unemployment.

Thirdly, promoting governance and the rule of law is essential for peacebuilding. We are witnessing a marked deterioration in the rule of law globally, which contributes to inequality, marginalization and instability. Strengthening judicial institutions and improving access to justice are therefore important aspects in building more equitable and resilient societies.

Fourthly, it is essential that Member States, regional organizations and the United Nations work together to

improve conflict-prevention mechanisms, including early-warning systems and rapid-response capabilities. The engagement of local communities in those efforts is also essential to effective prevention.

Lastly, international and regional cooperation must be strengthened. National Governments must promote regional integration and support peacekeeping and mediation efforts, with particular attention to local and regional processes.

Burundi remains deeply committed to translating the principles of the New Agenda for Peace into concrete action and working with all Member States to consolidate peace and leave future generations a world that we want.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Kiribati.

Mr. Tito (Kiribati): Coming as I do from the most peaceful part of our planet, the Pacific, I would like to greet members in my mother tongue — *kam na bane ni mauri*, meaning “may you all be blessed with blooming health and happiness”.

I congratulate Sierra Leone's presidency for providing this opportunity for the Members of the United Nations to have an open debate in the Security Council on the global, regional and national aspects of conflict prevention. There can be no doubt that hundreds of thousands of human beings are out there as we speak, crying out to be released from being held hostage or freed from the violence of war and conflict, which have turned their lives into a nightmare as their homes and neighbourhoods are reduced to rubble and mass graves. With a culture — in the Pacific and Kiribati — that is naturally equipped with effective peacemaking and conflict-resolution mechanisms, Kiribati firmly believes that peace must be secured first before any development can take place.

That is well demonstrated in the many war-torn countries around the world, where hundreds of thousands of innocent humans are being killed or injured and many more are forced to leave the comfort of their homes to find shelter elsewhere. Our forefathers in the Pacific and Kiribati used to teach us that violence is rooted in a violent and troubled mind, often caused by fear and a lack of trust, while peace is rooted in a peaceful and self-contented mind. That is why the Kiribati culture attaches great importance to the cultivation of peaceful minds and other positive human attributes by creating

an environment in which peace and other such positive attributes are encouraged and promoted within families and society through social and cultural interactions that foster friendship, cooperation, unity and trust between and among the members of a community.

In the light of its experience in peacemaking and conflict resolution, Kiribati believes that the United Nations can also help to prevent and stop wars by persistently encouraging parties in dispute or conflict to use peaceful means for settling their differences, as laid out under Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations. The United Nations should also make use of regional and national peacemaking and conflict-resolution mechanisms, where appropriate. All Member States should be encouraged to commit fully to the pursuit of peace, in line with their obligations when they signed the Charter.

However, Kiribati recognizes the enormous challenge facing some members of our United Nations family, whose huge economies rely on the production and sale of weapons and other apparatus of war, thereby enjoying maximum growth when conflicts and tensions escalate. The tendency to prioritize profit and monetary wealth over people and planet certainly adds to the burden of the main mission of the United Nations in maintaining world peace and security. Kiribati respectfully requests that the United Nations urgently organize reconciliatory and peacemaking meetings for the countries currently ravaged by ongoing wars and

conflicts, using the fully transparent and inclusive mechanisms prescribed under Chapter VI of the Charter.

We also request that all Members of the United Nations that are in dispute with one another, especially our large and powerful brothers, respect and comply with the provisions of the Charter, especially Chapter VI, on the pacific settlement of disputes. We also recommend that the United Nations encourage, support and facilitate more informal interactions among the diplomats of the 193 Member countries as a way of fostering friendship and good relations among nations, beginning with their representatives here in New York, which in due course will trickle down to the regional and national levels to foster friendship and peaceful coexistence around the world. Let us take to heart the challenge that President Harry Truman set in the statement he delivered at the launch of the Charter in San Francisco in June 1945, when he said,

“[o]nly if we understand what the Charter is and what it can mean to the peace of the world will the document become a living human reality”.

Let us all play our parts, not only to understand what the Charter is, but more importantly to faithfully respect, honour and cherish it for the advancement of peace, progress and prosperity. Not for a select few, but for all the 8.13 billion inhabitants of our common home, planet Earth. Then we can proudly celebrate that the Charter has become a living human reality.

The meeting rose at 3.50 p.m.